Discussion

The occurrence of a shy and highly endangered primate like the Slender Loris in an urban setting comes as a surprise and an exciting discovery, particularly as they are evidently breeding successfully and there is some indication of their presence at this site during the past few years. It is known that lorises do adapt to certain human-dominated landscapes (Honnavalli *et al.* 2009), and they have also been recorded in the city of Bengaluru, where there are over 100 individuals inhabiting its few and fast disappearing green pockets (Gandhi 2008).

However, the history of these animals at this particular site in Chennai is still puzzling. At present we can only speculate about the origins of this group that we have found. They could perhaps have escaped from captivity, or they may be released pets that had managed to survive in the wooded campus surroundings. On the other hand they could be wild lorises that had somehow adventurously migrated from their natural habitat, though it is hard to imagine since there are no natural corridors left in-between the congested urban development. It is also possible that the animals had been there all along, but had not been noticed on account of their reclusive nocturnal habits.

The Guindy National Park which is an extensive forest in Chennai dating back to colonial times is located less than 6 km from this site. Despite its rich biodiversity, it has no records of the loris and the only primate known to occur there is the Bonnet Macaque *Macaca radiata*. Though Chennai has an active community of birdwatchers and nature photographers, the loris has never been recorded in their urban wildlife checklists.

An extended study is required before any conclusions can be drawn on the status of this species in the city and it is important to conduct detailed surveys of similar green pockets in the immediate vicinity as well. These will provide insights into the occurrence of the Slender Loris in Chennai and will help put conservation action into place.

We hope to continue our investigations to gather more information and intend to maintain careful records of all further sightings of this curious and enigmatic animal.

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2. A NOTE ON THE DIET OF TIGER *PANTHERA TIGRIS* LINNAEUS AND DHOLE *CUON ALPINUS* PALLAS IN A MONTANE SHOLA FOREST, WESTERN GHATS, INDIA

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Diet studies of large carnivores from the montane shola grasslands are poorly understood. Food habits of large carnivores have been reported from the scrub jungle (Cohen *et al.* 1978; Arivazhagan *et al.* 2007) and deciduous forest (Johnsingh 1983; Karanth and Sunquist 1995; Venkataraman *et al.* 1995; Andheria *et al.* 2007; Ramesh *et al.* 2009) of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats. We present notes on the diet of tiger and dhole from a three-day survey in Mukurthi National Park in February 2010. The study was conducted in the Mukurthi National Park (>1,800-2,500 m above msl) of the Nilgiris, which comprises of rolling hills and mountains of the evergreen shola grasslands. The sholas are confined to depressions and folds in the mountain characterized by small (7-15 m) and medium (15-20 m) sized trees (Von Lengerke and Blasco 1989). Annual rainfall ranges from 1,500-2,000 mm. Frost is frequent from December to February.

During this survey, scats of tiger (n = 30) and dhole (n = 37) were collected opportunistically whenever encountered along roads and trails. Prey species hair remains from each scat were observed under a high magnification microscope and compared with reference slides at the research laboratory of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Scat analysis revealed the presence of three prey species in tiger scats and five prey species in dhole scats. Percent occurrence of prey items in tiger and dhole scats was calculated. Tiger scats comprised of Sambar *Rusa unicolor* (78.8%), Rodent (18.4%) and Wild Pig *Sus scrofa* (2.6%), while dhole scats comprised of Sambar (51.6%) rodent (35.5%), Wild Pig (6.5%), Black-naped Hare *Lepus nigricollis* (3.2%) and bird (3.2%) remains. It is evident that tiger and dhole depend mainly on sambar as the major prey along with secondary prey species like small mammals. In comparison to the deciduous forest, which is considered as a prey rich habitat with a much wider choice of large body-sized prey (Ramesh *et al.* 2009), the shola grasslands of Mukurthi harbour low density of prey species and absence of chital (a major prey in other tiger habitats) in the area. Large carnivores have the potential to survive even in low densities in Mukurthi National Park. Further comprehensive studies are needed to document food habits of large predators from montane sholas of India.

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3. THE SECOND LOCALITY RECORD OF *TAPHOZOUS LONGIMANUS* HARDWICKE, 1825 (CHIROPTERA: EMBALLONURIDAE) FROM NEPAL

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Introduction

Six species of Emballonuridae (*Saccolaimus saccolaimus*, *Taphozous longimanus*, *T. melanopogon*, *T. nudiventris*, *T. perforatus* and *T. theobaldi*) are recorded from the Indian subcontinent (Bates and Harrison 1997). The sole representative of the Family from Nepal is *T. longimanus*, six specimens of which were collected by R.M. Mitchell from Jhapa (26° 29' N; 87° 51' E) in the eastern Terai of Nepal in January, 1966 (Worth and Shah 1969; Mitchell 1978). In February 2009, a single dead male specimen of *T. longimanus* was found by the first author in Samrat Chowk, a suburb of Biratnagar, 56 km due west of Jhapa (Fig. 1). This is the second locality record of the taxon in Nepal.

Nepal lies within the Himalaya Hotspot as defined by Conservation International (www.biodiversityhotspots.org) and both Biratnagar and Jhapa are located in the critical/ endangered Global 200 terrestrial ecoregion number 91. Terai-Duar Savanna and Grasslands (Olson and Dinerstein 2002).

Material and Methods

The voucher specimen was transferred from the collection site to the Central Department of Zoology (CDZ), Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, where it is retained as a